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Congress of the United States
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COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEES:
CHAIRMAN, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
ECONOMIC AND CONSUMER POLICY
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA, AND INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM
ASIA, THE PACIFIC, AND NONPROLIFERATION

May 15, 2020

The Honorable Russell T. Vought
Acting Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

The Honorable Michael J. Rigas
Acting Director
Office of Personnel Management
1900 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20405

Dear Acting Director Vought and Acting Director Rigas:

I write to you regarding several issues related to the guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), "Aligning Federal Agency Operations with the National Guidelines for *Opening Up America Again*."

First, on April 29, 2020 the Subcommittee on Government Operation sent a letter to OMB and OPM expressing serious concerns over the Administration's federal reopening guidance and requesting a briefing by May 15, 2020.¹ To date, I have yet to receive a response or any indication that either agency plans to schedule the requested briefing. I, therefore, ask you to respond to the Subcommittee immediately so that we may schedule a briefing where OMB and OPM can inform Members of Congress on the measures being taken to support the federal workforce as federal offices around the country make decisions about their operating status amid this pandemic.

Second, OPM has yet to respond to Virginia Governor Ralph Northam regarding the April 23, 2020 letter he sent with Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser.² In the letter, the bipartisan elected leaders highlight the need for continued widespread telework availability for federal employees. It is imperative OPM respond to the leaders of the National Capital Region and keep them apprised of the steps OPM is taking to support federal workers during this unprecedented time.

¹ Letter from the House Subcommittee on Government Operations to Michael Rigas, Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management (Apr. 29, 2020) (online at oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2020-04-29.GEC%20to%20Rigas-%20OPM%20re%20Reopening%20Guidance.pdf)

² Letter from Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam, and District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser to Michael J. Rigas, Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management (Apr. 23, 2020) (online at www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorviriniagov/governor-of-virginia/pdf/4.23.20-Regional-Letter-to-OPM.pdf).

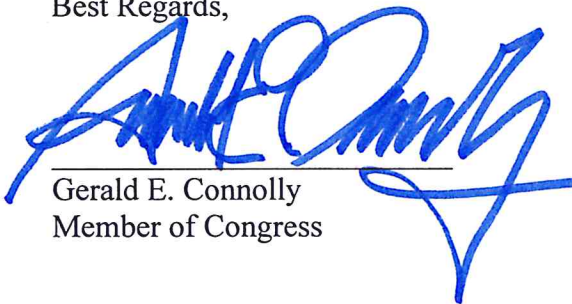
Lastly, I would like to bring to your attention Executive Order 62, issued by Virginia Governor Ralph Northam on May 8, 2020 delaying phase one of the Commonwealth's reopening process for Northern Virginia localities until May 28th.³ This decision was based on data and evidence indicating that the Northern Virginia region has a substantially higher rate of positive coronavirus tests compared with the rest of the state.

Given the recent operating status change to open the federal government, I ask you to direct agencies to give full consideration to the reopening approach Northern Virginia is taking as you help federal agencies and their employees make decisions about their operations going forward. Thousands of federal employees and contractors live and work in Northern Virginia and we must ensure the federal government's reopening decisions do not undercut the region's effort to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus. At the very minimum, I urge you to provide maximum telework flexibilities for federal employees and contractors in the region.

It is imperative that the federal government takes every precaution throughout its reopening procedures so that we may safeguard the health of millions of public servants and their families.

I appreciate your consideration, and I look forward to your prompt reply.

Best Regards,



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

³ Virginia Exec. Order No. 62 (May 8, 2020) (online at www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorviriniagov/executive-actions/EO-62-and-Order-of-Public-Health-Emergency-Four---Jurisdictions-Temporarily-Delayed-From-Entering-Phase-One-in-Executive-Order-61-and-Permitted-to-Remain-in-Phase-Zero-Northern-Virginia-Region.pdf).